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Harlem Hospital Center Hosts Conference To Address Female Genital Cutting (FGC) Among NYC Women

New York, NY – (April 19, 2011) On Wednesday, April 27, 2011, Harlem Hospital Center and Sauti Yetu Center for African Women will host a national conference on the delicate topic of Female Genital Cutting/Female Genital Mutilation. National and International experts such as Crista Johnson, M.D., Benjamin Aubey, M.D., Sagal Ali, Edgar Mandeville M.D., and social work providers will discuss the background and overview of FGC, why and where the procedure is performed, how it impacts families and the global efforts to end the practice. There will be panel discussions on patient clinical encounters from obstetric and pediatric viewpoints, how data is researched and collected, and a presentation of legal issues and asylums to protect victims.

Female Genital Cutting (FGC) involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is mostly carried out by traditional circumcisers, who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths. FGC is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. New York City, and the Harlem community in particular, is home to a large population of women from FGC-practicing countries, many of whom seek OB/GYN care at Harlem Hospital Center. The conference is collaboration between Harlem Hospital Center's Chief of OB/GYN, Edgar Mandeville, M.D. and Zeinab Eyega, MSC., Executive Director and Founder of the Sauti Yetu Center for African Women.

Physicians, social workers and community based organizations are invited to participate. Registration is \$45, \$25 for students, CME credits will be offered to registrants who stay a minimum of 2 hours. To pre-register, send request to caringforfgc@gmail.com.

What: Conference: “Caring for Families Affected by Female Genital Cutting: Evidence to Guide Research, Intervention and Public Policy”

When: Wednesday, April 27, 2011
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where: Harlem Hospital Center
Herbert G. Cave Auditorium
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
506 Lenox Avenue – 2nd Floor, Martin Luther King Pavilion
New York, NY 10037

Registration: \$45/25 students; press is invited